(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to check the increase in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) There has been an increase in the price of imported newsprint during the quarter July-September, 1987 as compared to the prices prevailing in the previous quarter April-June, 1987 as indicated below:—

Standard News print: Rs. 730 per metric tonne

Glazed Variety : Rs. 245 per metric tonne.

(b) Hardening of the international market of newsprint.

(c) Government has no control over the international market of newsprint. However, all efforts are made to ensure that the newsprint is purchased at the best price available to the extent possible.

देवनागरी इलेक्ट्रानिक टाइपराइटरों में सुधार हेतु विशेषज्ञ समिति

2119. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इलेक्ट्रानिक्स विभाग द्वारा देवनागरी इलेक्ट्रानिक टाइपराइटरों के कुंजी-पटल में सुधार करने के लिए एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) उक्त समिति में किन-किन विभागों के प्रतिनिधि शामिल थे ;

(घ) उक्त समिति ने क्या-क्या सिफारिशें की हैं ; और

(ङ) इस समिति की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा महासागर विकास, परमाणु ऊर्जा, इलेक्ट्रानिकी और अन्तरिक्ष विभागों में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० आर० नारायणन) : (क) जी, नहीं। किन्तु, इलेक्ट्रानिकी विभाग ने भारतीय लिपियों पर आधारित कम्प्यूटरों के कुंजीपटल के मानक ढांचे का विकास करने के लिए एक समिति का गठन किया था ।

(ख) से (ङ) ये प्रश्न ही नहीं उठते ।

Setting up of Technology centres

2120. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any technology centres were set up in rural areas to make available knowledge of improved techniques to rural people in developmental activities;

(b) if so, what are the details of these centres and their working; and

(c) what is the number of such centres proposed to be set up during the rest of the current Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 35 Rural Technology Demonstration-cum-Training (RTDT) Centres have been set up by NRDC in different parts of the country as on 31st March, 1987.

(c) Currently a review of the working of the RTDT Centres is under way and decisions on various aspects of the Corporation's programme in this area, including the strengthening of the existing Centres, setting up new Centres etc. will be taken in the light of the findings of the review.